the Buddhists in Ladakh and that Ladakhi Buddhists are demonstrating almost daily as some Christian missionaries were taking away the children of illiterate Ladakhi Buddhists out of the district on some pretext to convert them to Christianity; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what measures are being taken to prevent the activities of christian missionaries from converting the Buddhists children into Christianity in this sensitive border district of Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government of Jammu and Kashmir have informed that the Christian missionaries had admitted 50 children belonging to Leh in one of their schools in Srinagar where they are provided board and lodge. A section of Buddhist community at Leh apprehended that these children may be converted into Christianity. The Buddhist Association, Leh had been demanding the return of these children from Srinagar to Leh. As per the report, the State Government addressed communication to each parent to indicate whether they would like to withdraw their wards from the school for which the State Government would provide necessary assistance as well. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir have also informed that the students can be withdrawn only on the specific request of the parents.

Increase in administered prices of certain items

3402. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that administered prices of certain items produced by the public sector corporations have been recently increased;

(b) whether this has resulted in the increase of prices of other essencial commodities; and

(c) if so, whether there is any move to assess the need for administered prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) There have been no significant revisions in administered prices durng the current financial year.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Shifting of Textile units outside *Metropolitan areas*

3403. SHRI SHANKAR SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's policy regarding shifting of textile units, both closed and working from metropolitan areas to rural areas;

(b) what is the plan to make use of the land occupied by closed textile units which work below their 50 per cent capacity; and

(c) what are the details of the policy contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) to (c) Requests for shifting of textile units from metropolitan areas to rural areas are considered under the locational guidelines of the prevailing Industrial Licensing Policy. The power to permit alternative use of land occupied by closed textile mills, etc., vests in the competent Urban Land Ceiling Authority|State Government concerned.

Textile policy

3404. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of the total number of textile mills

lying closed a fairly large number of them were closed after the announcement of the new textile policy in June, 1985;

(b) if so, to what extent such large number of closures were as a result of that policy; and

(c) how Government would justify the success of the new textile policy vis-a-vis revival in demand, fall in prices, increase in employment, increase in per capita cloth consumption, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The closure of textile mills is indicative of a structural transformation in the textile industry;

(c) During the last 3 years of the Policy, the textile industry as a whole has shown improvement in terms of production as well as exports. In terms of index number of wholesale prices, mill cotton cloth has shown only a marginal increase from May, 1985 to May, 1988 whereas nylon| terene and mixed cloth actually declined. The per capita consumption of textiles in the household sector which was 13.83 metres in 1984 was estimated at 17.16 metres in 1987. So far as employment is concerned, while the work force in the organised sector of the textile industry has come down it is estimated to have increased in the decentralised sector.

Special entry permit system in North Eastern Region

3405. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the reasons for non-lifting of Special Entry Permit System clamped in North Eastern region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Various factors like priority to the International border, general law and order situation, sensitivity of the State and presence of insurgent elements etc. are the reasons for not lifting the Special Entry Permit System enforced in North Eastern region.

Closure of Calico group of Mills

3406. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Calico Group have unauthorisedly and without compensation and salaries to its workers have closed down Kalol Mill a reported in Loksatte of 11th October, 1987 and if so, what steps have been taken to safeguard interests of the workers;

(b) wetehhr Calico Gruop is financed by consortium of Central Government banks and has been making profits due to the subsidies paid by the Centre, direct and indirect; and

(c) whether Government propose to take over the assets of Calico Group Mills in order to suitably compensate the harassed labourers of their families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) According to available information, the Kalol Ltd., Kalol of the Calico Group, closed down from 6-10-87 due to shortage of working capital leading to disconnection of power supply due to non-payment of electricity bills. The matter of right of the workers to receive their dues is pending in the Court.

(b) A short term rehabilitation package for "holding on operations" until August, 1988 had been agreed